

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 02906 042051Z

64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 /054 W

----- 073181

R 141306Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2403

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2906

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER CHARGES OF CIA ACTIVITY IN SA

REF: PRETORIA 2797

AUGUST 3 SUNDAY EXPRESS FOLLOWED UP LAST WEEK'S FLURRY OF "EXPOSES" OF CIA ACTIVITY IN SOUTH AFRICA (REFTEL) WITH ARTICLE REHASHING OLD ALLEGATIONS THAT FORMER DURBAN CONSUL GENERAL HOLMES AND CAPETOWN ECONOMIC OFFICER MULLIGAN ARE, ACCORDING TO "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES", CIA AGENTS. TEXT FOLLOWS:

1. "THE AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS CONDUCTED A SKILLFUL UNDERCOVER OPERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SINCE THE EARLY 1950S, HEADED BY ITS CHIEF AGENT IN AFRICA, MR. EDWARD HOLMES, A FORMER CONSUL IN DURBAN.
2. "THIS INFORMATION WAS GIVEN TO THE EXPRESS THIS WEEK BY AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES.
3. "I WAS TOLD THAT NOT FAR BEHIND MR. HOLMES IN IMPORTANCE WAS THE SWASHBUCKLING WILLIAM (WILL) J. ROGERS, WHO OPERATED FROM SALISBURY AND WHOSE MAIN TASK WAS TO PRY (SIC)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRETOR 02906 042051Z

ON RHODESIA'S SANCTIONS-BUSTING OPERATIONS.

4. "MR. HOLMES, WHO LEFT SOUTH AFRICA IN JULE TO BECOME THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AMERICA'S INFORMATION SERVICES ON AFRICA, WAS BY FAR THE MOST SENIOR AGENT IN AFRICA. HIS ACTIVITIES WERE KNOWN TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL COMMENT OR COMPLAINT WAS MADE.

5. "MR. HOLMES WAS THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN MALAWI IN 1963-1964 AND INITIATED CONTACTS BETWEEN PRETORIA AND DR. HASTINGS BANDA.

6. "IN JANUARY, 1972, THE LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH NAMED HIM 'ONE OF THE MOST SENIOR CIA OFFICIALS OPERATING IN AFRICA' -

7. "AT THE TIME OF DISCLOSURE, I ASKED MR. HOLMES IF HE WAS A CIA AGENT. HE SAID THERE WAS NOT A VESTIGE OF TRUTH IN THE REPORT.

8. "WOULD HE CONTEMPLATE TAKING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE NEWSPAPER ?

9. "HE REPLIED: ' MY SUPERIORS WOULD NOT LIKE ME TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LIBEL ACTIONS. THESE REPORTS CIRCULATE FROM TIME TO TIME AND IT IS JUST BEST TO IGNORE THEM.'

10. "MR. HOLMES JOINED THE CIA FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN 1975. FROM 1959, BEFORE GOING TO SALISBURY, HE HEADED THE EAST AND SOUTH AFRICAN SECTION OF THE SPY ORGANIZATION AND WAS STATION HEAD AT PRETORIA.

11. "HE BECAME AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL IN JULY, 1971.

12. "MR. HOLMES ALSO SERVED IN NICARAGUA, VENEZUELA, ISRAEL AND ETHIOPIA. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE COMING TO DURBAN HE WAS BASED IN WASHINGTON WHERE HE HELD A SENIOR POSITION IN THE DEPARTMENT WHICH HE NOW HEADS.

13. "WILL ROGERS OPERATED FROM SALISBURY SHORTLY AFTER UDI IN 1965 UNTIL ABOUT 1969 POSING AS AN INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS MAN WITH STRONG RIGHTWING IDEAS.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 02906 042051Z

QRM Z ANOTHER AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL THOUGHT TO HAVE STRONG TIES WITH THE CIA WAS MR. JOHN PATRICK MULLIGAN, WHO WAS STATIONED IN CAPE TOWN.

15. "WHEN HE WAS CONTACTED, MR. MULLIGAN SAID: 'YOU'RE KIDDING. ABSURD. UTTERLY.'
BOWDLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ESPIONAGE, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR02906
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750268-1155
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750885/aaaacwwu.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRETORIA 2797
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER CHARGES OF CIA ACTIVITY IN SA
TAGS: PFOR, SF, US, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006